Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Year before last even tender was invited and it was dropped somehow. We had come to that stage.

VILLAGE LIBRARIES—PARTICULARS REGARDING.

28. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) how many village libraries are there in the State ;

(*b*) what is the average cost for each library ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* (*a*) 31 (28 village libraries and 3 grant-in-aid village libraries).

(*b*) Rs. 129 in respect of village libraries (Rs. 50 grant, Rs. 55 bonus and Rs. 24 lighting charges). Grant-in-aid village libraries were opened only recently and it is not possible therefore to find out their average cost now.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Why is a bonus paid to the librarians and to whom are they given now ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Bonus is given to 2 masters. Many of the libraries are located in schools. The Headmaster is given, I think, Rs. 25. Another master is given Rs. 15 and a peon is also given some allowance. Rs. 24 is given for lighting in the library.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Can we not dispense with the payment of bonus ? Is it not the function of the teacher also to look after the library ? Why is bonus necessary ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* We are reconsidering that aspect. I perfectly agree with the hon'ble member.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know whether it will not take a decade to have libraries in each village since the present progress is very very slow ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* This was in existence. This is not my work.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I do not blame the Minister.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The other works will be taken up next year.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly